



<b>Course &amp; Session Number</b>	SOWK 553.03 S03	<b>Classroom</b>	Online
<b>Course Name</b>	Gerontology		
<b>Dates and Time</b>	Start of Classes: January 11, 2024 End of Classes: April 4, 2024 Dates and Time: Zoom sessions on Thursdays 5:30-8:30pm Mountain Time Refer to the Class Schedule below for details. Add/Drop/Withdrawal Dates: Please refer to the course-specific deadline in your <a href="#">Student Centre</a> <sup>1</sup> .		
<b>Instructor</b>	Yeonjung Lee, PhD, MSW	<b>Office Hours</b>	As Requested
<b>UCalgary E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:yeonjung.lee@ucalgary.ca">yeonjung.lee@ucalgary.ca</a>	<b>UCalgary Phone</b>	N/A

**OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, RACIAL JUSTICE, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND DECOLONIZATION**

The Faculty of Social Work (FSW), University of Calgary (UCalgary), is committed to promoting and actualizing equity, racial justice, diversity, inclusion and decolonization. We affirm that diversity and uniqueness are enriching and valuable, and that they can strengthen our teaching, learning, research, scholarship, and community connections. We aim to foster an inclusive, thriving and equitable environment for our students, non-academic and academic staff, and community members. We take the stand that [equity](#) does not mean sameness in treatment of people, but rather requires measures and accommodations for diverse life experiences and circumstances to ensure that no one of a particular social group is disadvantaged, underrepresented or overlooked in all aspects of our work. We intend to address systemic inequities and compounded disadvantages due to intersectionality of social locations, particularly for those who are members of racialized communities, Indigenous peoples, Black peoples, persons with disabilities, migrant groups (including refugees and immigrants), 2SLGBTQ+ communities, linguistic minorities as well as those who have experienced socioeconomic, caregiving, religious, political, and/or cultural barriers to their education and employment. We also recognize, honour, and integrate into our work diverse perspectives, ways of knowing and doing, experiences, and strengths. An anti-oppressive lens, particularly intersectional, anti-colonial, anti-racist and decolonizing frameworks, will inform our work.

<sup>1</sup> In the Enrolled Courses table, under Deadlines, click on the Calendar icon by each course and the deadlines will appear.

Please refer to our full statement of our [Commitment to Equity, Racial Justice, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization](#), our [Statement on Anti-Black Racism](#) and the work of the faculty's [Anti-Black Racism Task Force](#), our [Statement on Anti-Asian Racism](#), and the university's [Indigenous Strategy](#).

## SYLLABUS STATEMENT

Examines contexts, theories, practice models and skill development in specialized fields of practice.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the concept of aging, including definitions of aging and biological, cognitive and psychosocial correlates of aging. The course emphasizes critical examination of representations of aging, explores aging and related issues in social work practice with older adults and their families, communities and societies and examines a broad range of theories and contemporary issues related to aging and social work practice with older adults and their families. Domains of inquiry include biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives on aging and older adults. Students will critically examine the social constructions of old age, social work values and ethics, and social work practice within an aging society at the individual, community, and institutional levels. Social and economic justice, evidence-based practice, and capacity building will be highlighted throughout the course. Students will participate in applied learning projects as an integral part of this course. Professional communication skills will be practiced. Throughout the course, we will discuss how to apply the tenets of evidence-based practice to the theories and issues that impact aging. The purpose of this course is to highlight the key issues that face the emerging generation of diverse, heterogeneous older adults, as well as social workers and other professionals who will serve them.

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment (students complete on their own time such as Discussion Boards, watching videos, etc.) and synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement an alternative participation activity (e.g., watch the recordings, submit a brief reflection, and actively contribute to the follow-up online discussion). There will be 8 synchronous Zoom sessions throughout the term (see the Class Schedule), and each will be recorded.

This course has no pre-requisites or co-requisites.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the trends, issues, and challenges related to aging and discuss their implications for aging in our society.
2. Explain and evaluate the theories of aging.
3. Apply theories of aging to practice with older adults and their families.
4. Identify and critically analyze a range of policy and programs designed to support an aging society.

5. Take responsibility as professional social workers to confront biases and stereotypes about older adults and to educate others about later years in life.
6. Adopt and apply an anti-ageist approach in their social work practice with individuals, families, and communities.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND/OR READINGS**

Novak, M., Northcott, H., & Campbell, L. (2017). *Aging and Society: Canadian Perspectives* (8<sup>th</sup> Edition). Nelson College Indigenous.

It is optional to purchase the textbook because only some chapters not the entire books will be used for this course. A copy of the selected chapters may be available via D2L after the approval for use by the UCalgary Copyright Office. Besides the textbook, students will be required to review articles from academic journals, as well as online materials provided by instructor. Lists of required readings and videos will be provided weekly prior to each class via D2L.

### **LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

A D2L site is set up for this course, which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials. A laptop, desktop or mobile device with Internet access, microphone and speaker is required for D2L and Zoom access.

## RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES

This course is an elective course in the BSW program. Knowledge about aging is an important component to support our professional mandate and values. This course relates to foundational BSW courses (e.g., SOWK 304/306) that introduce models and approaches to social work practice, social work theories, and fundamental social work concepts related to diversity and oppression. Students are encouraged to apply knowledge, skills and values learned in other BSW courses.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### **Important Dates for Winter 2024**

- Start of Term: Tuesday, January 2, 2024
- First Day of Class: Monday, January 8, 2024
- End of Term: Tuesday, April 30, 2024
- Last Day of Class: Tuesday, April 9, 2024
- Term Break: Sunday to Saturday, February 18 - 24, 2024
- Fee Deadline: Friday, January 26, 2024
- Alberta Family Day, no classes: Monday, February 19, 2024
- Good Friday, no classes: Friday, March 29, 2024
- Easter Monday, no classes: Monday, April 1, 2024

## Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Zoom Date/Time	Assignments Due
1	Jan 8-14	Introduction	Class – January 11	Discussion Board
2	Jan 15-21	Perception of older adults and aging	Class – January 18	
3	Jan 22-28	Aging in Canada and global aging	<b>No Zoom</b>	Discussion Board
4	Jan 29-Feb 4	Theories of aging	Class – February 1	Discussion Board
5	Feb 5-11	Overview of the issues in later life	<b>No Zoom</b>	Discussion Board
6	Feb 12-18	Personal research week	<i>Group Work</i> - Feb 15	Assignment 1: Feb 16
7	Feb 19-25	<i>Winter Break</i>	<b>No Class</b>	
8	Feb 26-Mar 3	Review and discussion of ethnographic interview	Class – February 29	
9	Mar 4-10	Dementia	Class – March 7	
10	Mar 11-17	A movie week: <Still Alice>	<b>No Zoom</b>	Discussion Board Assignment 2: Mar 15
11	Mar 18-24	Diversity of aging	Class – March 21	
12	Mar 25-31	Aging in place and caregiving	<b>No Zoom</b>	Discussion Board
13	Apr 1-7	Presentation	Class – April 4	Assignment 3: April 5

### ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND RELATED INFORMATION

#### GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS IN ONLINE CLASSES

You are expected to participate actively in all Zoom sessions. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that allows you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. **Unless advised (or agreed) otherwise by your instructor, your video camera should be turned on during class and you are expected to manage your microphone as required.** Please reach out to your instructor if you experience challenges that prevent you from having your camera turned on. You are expected to behave in a professional manner during all Zoom sessions. Please do not share the Zoom links with anyone who is not registered in this course.

#### MEDIA RECORDING FOR ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING (By Instructor)

The instructor may use Zoom media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session

### **RECORDINGS OF ONLINE CLASSES (By Students)**

Recording of lectures is generally not permitted. You must seek authorization from your instructor to record any lecture. Any student with a disability who is registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS), and who requires an accommodation to make audio recordings of course material shall be provided with such an accommodation if determined necessary by an Access Advisor in SAS.

Please refer to the [Recording of Lectures Policy](#) and [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#) for the additional information.

### **ZOOM RECORDINGS OF ONLINE CLASSES**

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **EMAIL**

Class announcements will be sent out over e-mail, so you'll need to make sure that the university has your correct e-mail address and that your e-mail account is in working order. Students are welcome to contact me by e-mail. I will make every effort to reply to your e-mails as soon as possible, but students are expected to wait at least 72 hours (not counting weekends and holidays) to hear back from me. If you contact me regarding the assignments at the last minute, you might not be able to get the answer before the deadline. Thus, students are advised to contact me in advance.

***A brief note on email etiquette:*** When emailing your professor, your email should always contain certain elements. First, "SOWK 553" should be in the subject line of the email. Emails without the course number may receive a delayed response. Second, your email should start out, "Dr. Lee" or "Professor Lee" or "Yeonjung." Please refrain from saying "Hey" or starting directly the issue you are emailing about without the appropriate name of the recipient.

### **ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

#### **Assignment 1 (Individual): Ethnographic Interview and Reflection Paper (25%) – Due February 16 by 11:59pm**

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes: 2, 3, 5, 6

Assignment Description: Students will have an ethnographic interview with an older adult. Find an older person who is aged 70 and older. Try to interview someone you do not know or know only vaguely. Use a recording device (that will allow you to record verbatim what the person says) and have a series of questions prepared in advance. Aim for a 30-45-minute conversation covering the topics suggested (a list will be posted on D2L) and feel free to add additional topics of your own interests. Students are instructed not to take notes during the interview but to pay 100% attention to the conversation instead. Course-based ethics will be submitted by instructor and approved before conducting this assignment.

After the interview, write a reflection paper (2500 words excluding the references). You can include appropriate quotes from the person, but the direct quotes should not take more than 25% of the entire

paper. The reflection paper should focus on students' own reflection based on both theories learned and literature reviewed as well as personal experience or insight rather than simply transcribing the ethnographic interview. Submit 1) a reflection paper, 2) the consent form, 3) TCPS certificate, and 4) audio recording of the interview via Dropbox.

Assessment Criteria: Further details and assessment rubrics will be provided in class/posted on D2L.

### **Assignment 2 (Individual): Op-ed Essay (25%) – Due March 15 by 11:59pm**

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes: All

Assignment Description: Students will write an op-ed essay about an aging related topic of your interest. An Op-ed (Opposite the Editorial) is a newspaper opinion piece from contributors not affiliated with the editorial board. The purpose of an op-ed is to sway public opinion and change minds using convincing arguments, presenting it in a concise, readable way. As a social worker, writing an op-ed is one of the many ways to apply the learnings from the classroom to the real world and practice what you believe is "social justice". The final paper should NOT exceed 750 words (excluding the references). Students will be encouraged to submit it for publication. For extra credit, forward me an e-mail showing that you sent your op-ed to an online or print publication, seeking to have it published.

Assessment Criteria: Further details and assessment rubrics will be provided in class/posted on D2L.

### **Assignment 3 (Group): Infographic and Presentation (25%) – Due April 4 & 5 by 11:59pm**

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes: 1, 4, 5, 6

Assignment Description: Infographic is a method of visualizing data or ideas that conveys complex information to an audience in manner that can be quickly consumed and easily understood. It is very effective as a tool for communicating ideas and displaying large amounts of information relatively quickly. Infographic combines text, graphics, and images together in a way that is aesthetically appealing and engaging to viewers.

It is a group assignment and the groups will be randomly assigned at the beginning of the semester. Students will create an infographic poster that will help others better understand the resources available in their own local communities for older adults. Students as a group will explore and research the resources for older people regarding housing, foods, health, in-home support, transportation and others and demonstrate the gaps that they identify based on the learnings from this course or their own knowledge.

Students will present your infographic poster during Zoom session as well as post it on Discussion Board via D2L. All students (including the presenters) read the posting and respond to at least TWO postings by April 7. Presenters are expected to answer the questions raised by peers and facilitate the discussion among peers. Much like at a research conference, students will be invited to virtually "walk through" the infographic poster and ask questions. When you ask questions, try to balance across the postings. If someone has already posted questions/responses on a poster, try to respond to other postings. Presenters are also expected to re-respond to all peers' comments by April 9.

Assessment Criteria: Further details and assessment rubrics will be provided in class/posted on D2L.

### **Assignment 4 (Individual): Contribution to Online Learning Community (25%) – Due as noted on D2L**

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes: All

Assignment Description: To create a meaningful learning experience for everyone, students' active class participation in online lectures, synchronous and asynchronous discussions, and presentations is required. Peer interaction and learning is a focus in this course. Class participation via Discussion Board contributions on D2L and in the synchronous Zoom sessions is expected and will be assessed by the instructor as part of the course grade.

Assessment Criteria: Further details and assessment rubrics will be provided in class/posted on D2L.

## **ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION INFORMATION**

### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to attend the Zoom sessions regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions via D2L for students' best learning experience. These are part of the participation grade, as outlined in the assessment components section above. If a student misses a synchronous Zoom session, make-up marks are usually gained by completing a series of exercises related to the topics discussed as class participation mark of the week after watching the recorded Zoom session. Whenever possible, advanced notice of the absence is strongly encouraged.

### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

Please submit all assignments electronically through their respective Dropbox or Discussion Board in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "Full name and assignment number" (e.g., Jane Smith Assignment 2). Assignments are due by 11:59pm on their due date. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Late assignments will be accepted with no penalty only in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor. Late assignments will be downgraded by 2% of the assignment grade per day including weekends and holidays. There is a seven-calendar day maximum limit for late submissions when students have not asked for an extension. No submission will be accepted beyond this seven-day limit.

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING**

All assignments will be assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented and referenced in APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format. If you need writing support, please connect with the Student Success Centre, at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

It is expected that all work submitted in assignments is the student's own work, written expressly by the student for this particular course. Students are reminded that academic misconduct, including plagiarism, has serious consequences, as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.ucaary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## GRADING

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course. The University of Calgary [Undergraduate Grading System](#) and Faculty of Social Work Percentage Conversion will be used. This grading system overrides the grading system in D2L. Instructor will not use rounding.

Grade	Grade Point	Description	Percentage Range
A+	4.0	Outstanding performance	95-100
A	4.0	Excellent performance	85-94
A-	3.7	Approaching excellent performance	80-84
B+	3.3	Exceeding good performance	77-79
B	3.0	Good performance	73-76
B-	2.7	Approaching good performance	70-72
C+	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance	67-69
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance	63-66
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	60-62
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	57-59
D	1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.	50-56
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	Below 50
CG		Credit Granted. Not included in the GPA calculation. See section <a href="#">F.1.3</a> for additional detail.	
CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.	

## COURSE EVALUATION

At the close of each term, students can provide feedback on their academic learning experience in their courses, including their instructors, through university-wide online surveys. Student feedback



contributes to ensuring academic excellence in the university's curriculum by bringing direct feedback to instructors.

Students will receive an email from **UCalgary Course Surveys** with direct links to their current course surveys, or they can access within the D2L course shell. For more information, visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/teaching-learning/student-surveys/usri>

Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

### Professional Conduct

As members of the University community, students and staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary's [Code of Conduct](#).

Students and staff are also expected to demonstrate professional behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. Consistent with the aims of the Social Work Program and the University of Calgary, all students and staff are expected to respect, appreciate, and encourage expression of diverse world views and perspectives; to offer their fellow community members unconditional respect and constructive feedback; and to contribute to building learning communities that promote individual and collective professional and personal growth. While critical thought and debate is valued in response to concepts and opinions shared in class, feedback must always be focused on the ideas or opinions shared and not on the person who has stated them.

Students and staff are expected to model behaviour in class that is consistent with our professional values and ethics, as outlined in the [Canadian Association for Social Workers, Code of Ethics](#) (2005) and the [Alberta College of Social Work Standards of Practice](#) (2019).

### Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS). SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. Please refer to the full policy on [Student Accommodations](#).

### Research Ethics

"If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the [CFREB Ethics Website](#) before beginning the assignment.

## **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please refer to the [Integrity and Conduct](#) section in the University of Calgary Calendar.

## **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## **Copyright Legislation**

All students who use materials protected by copyright are expected to comply with the University of Calgary policy on [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright](#) and requirements of the [Copyright Act](#) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the [Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. [Private information](#) related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

## **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's [Sexual and Gender-based Violence Policy](#) guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances.

## **Other Important Information**

Please visit the [Registrar's website](#) for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information

- Emergency Evacuation/ Assembly Points
- Safewalk